



February 9, 2021

RE: Testimony in support of ***Raised S.B. 837 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM***

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, Ranking Members Senator Miner, Representative Harding and distinguished members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Darien Pollinator Pathway to ask for your support of Raised S.B. 837. PFAS chemicals are known as “forever” chemicals because they take years to break down in our bodies and our environment. They are also associated with liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and liver, kidney and other cancers.

When fire-fighting foam containing PFAS chemicals is used, whether in training or in an actual fire (or when it is spilled), these chemicals enter our soil, our waterways and eventually Long Island Sound, causing harm to our environment, our economy, and to public health.

We support the passage of Raised S.B. 837 but would urge you to consider that the use of PFAS-containing foam (AFFF) for training be banned immediately. We also support a full ban of AFFF, unless required by federal law, by 2022. Alternative fluorine-free foams exist and are known to be effective. A timely and full ban is consistent with the actions of other states, will reduce exposure to firefighters and first responders and significantly reduce contamination of our environment.

We also support and appreciate DEEP’s implementing a take-back program. We nevertheless hold out hopes that as awareness of the dangers of these chemicals increases, further restrictions on PFAS chemicals will be put in place to keep our drinking water safe and minimize our exposures overall.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony,

Sincerely,

Juliet Cain
Darien Pollinator Pathway